

Friends Connection
Friendship Force of Sarasota
www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

December, 2011

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www.linvende@aol.com

Vice Pres: Katy Goodwin

Secretary: Debbie Boyd

Treasurer: Wayne Peterson

Publicity: **position available**

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Directory: Gary Anderson

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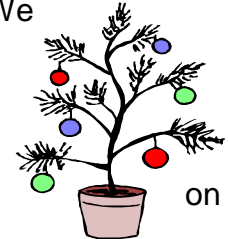
Presidents' Message

The last two years have been both rewarding and challenging. We would like to thank all of you who participated in club activities during this time while moving our club forward. With new leadership in the coming year we know our club will continue to help us all "change the way we see the world."

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at our Holiday Party December 1 at the Stoneybrook Country Club.

We wish all of you a very happy holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

Jack & Linda



Calendar of Eventsmore info inside****

December 1	Holiday Party at Stoneybrook Country Club***
January 3	Joint Board Meeting at home of Bob and Judy Joyce 7pm
January 5	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
January 24	Board Meeting at home of Judi Stratton 7pm
February 2	General Meeting at Oriental Buffet – more info later
February 21	Board Meeting at TBA 7pm



Look What's Happening!

- Let's give a warm welcome to new member Carol Poteat-Buchanan to our chapter. Carol lives at 5346 Everwood Run, Sarasota, FL 34235 - phone 941 379-0232. twocb@verizon.net
- A speedy recovery to Kathy Ackerman who is recovering at home from rotator cuff surgery.
- Helga Ponischil had cataract surgery this week. Get well wishes on their way!
- Bob Burke has been ailing with an upper respiratory illness and we hope a quick recovery comes soon.

The nominating committee would like to submit the following slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year:

President - Judi Stratton
Vice President – Gloria Grenier

Secretary - Debbie Boyd
Treasurer - Bob Joyce

These members will be elected at the Annual Meeting held in December. At that time further nominations may be made with the consent of the nominees.

Respectfully submitted,
Katy Goodwin, Ch.

Members: Ramona McGee, Wayne Peterson, Don Nicholson



NEWS FROM THE WEB

Check our web site and Facebook page for photos taken during the recent Morganton, NC inbound exchange. Also, look on our web site Video page for the addition of a great video taken in October, 2008 during an inbound exchange from Halle-Salle & Merseburg, Germany. Ramona McGee does an excellent job as the featured speaker.

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

Facebook Page Name: Friendship Force of Sarasota, Florida
Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator E-Mail linvende@aol.com



Please renew your FF Membership for 2012 by filling out this form as soon as possible!

All dues run from January to December and need to be paid for the coming year by **December 31, 2011**. We try to put our Membership Directory out by the first of the year so it is important for you to **renew now**. Please send the following form, one per household, with your check. **Please update with current information and indicate if it is new.** Thank you.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email(s) _____

Dues \$ 20 per person x _____ = _____

Name Badge \$ 11 per person x _____ = _____

Total \$ _____

Please mail with check made out to FF of Sarasota to Wayne Peterson, 4427 Opal Ct. SRQ 34233

ALL-FLORIDA FRIENDSHIP FORCE CONFERENCE

October 28-29, 2011 in Sarasota FL

The Sarasota Friendship Force Club hosted the All-Florida Conference last month. The 6 Florida FF clubs were represented. Suncoast Club had the most attendees (24). The other clubs and the number of their attendees are: East Central (4), Greater Orlando (9), Central Florida (2), Southwest Florida (6) and Sarasota (15) for a total of 60 at the Conference itself. The Friday evening "Meet and Greet" had 42 participants and the Saturday evening dinner at the Polo Grill was attended by 40. Each event received rave reviews.

70% filled out the Evaluation Form. The program, arranged by Ramona McGee received top marks. The panels on Membership and Communication provided updated materials to benefit each of our clubs. FFI President George Brown spoke on newly implemented projects that should bring a greater awareness of Friendship Force globally. He mentioned new types of exchanges that were later discussed more thoroughly by our program participants. Specifically, these are Educational, Discovery and Joint Exchanges. Watch your emails for future innovative types of exchanges.

"Thank You" to the wonderful committee and to all Sarasota Club members who helped to make the Conference a success.

Gloria Grenier

All-Florida FF Conference Chair



Reeta Dean represented our club on one of the panel discussions.



And some of our lighter moments.....



Morganton Exchange Report

This exchange went very well thanks to my committee made up of: Connie Bergin who coordinated the hosts, Judy Joyce who did a great job with the welcome dinner, Marty Swenson who arranged the farewell dinner, Ramona McGee who put together the gift bags and helped this newbie ED with some good advice, John Langmann who did a great job as our photographer, Wayne Peterson, the treasurer, and my wife Lee who kept me on the ball. All of the activities were well received and the ambassadors all seemed to be very pleased with the whole exchange. I want to thank all of the hosts and day hosts for making our ambassadors feel at home and for being prompt at all the activities. Also a big thank you to all who donated their guest passes.

Gary Anderson, Morganton ED



Enjoying the meal and....



Welcome Party Buffet



paying rapt attention to the Red Feather Mystery play.



Check our website for more photos!

Photos by Judy Joyce

Exchanges

Inbound

Bogotá, Columbia - May 19 – 26, 2012

There has been no recent report or contact from Bogota at this point. Please keep the dates and thanks to all who have signed up so far. More later when we hear.

Bonnie and Reeta, EDs

Outbound

Tirana, Albania – September 2012

I have been in touch with Diana Keci, the exchange person in Tirana, several times. Our exchange is on in September of next year. The exact dates are yet to be determined. I have sent off an e mail letter to a travel agency in Tirana, recommended by Diana Keci.

I am asking for a bus excursion up the Adriatic Sea, with visits to interesting sites, Hotels, meals, guides and all necessary for a wonderful tour, similar to the tour with Grand Circle, just to compare prices.

I am also in touch with Grand Circle Tour Co. just what I would like, starting on September 13th, Grand Circle, the land cost for a 14 day be around 2500.00 Dollars. The air fare probably Dollars from Tampa. The tour would start in Unesco Heritage site, then a tour of Mostar , also Heritage site, then to Montenegro to town of Bay, Unesco Heritage also, then to Split, where Emperor Diocletian had his villa, (4th century), then to Opatija, then tour Istrian peninsula, a subtropical paradise, visit Rovinj and Pula with roman amphitheater, tour of island of Krk., then to Bled with several tours, town of Skofja Loka, Ljuljana, village of Kropa and then return home, probably via Zagreb. -There are 18 spaces available on Grand Circle which I am holding at this time for a little while.



They have a trip 2012. With excursion, would around 1100.00 Dubrovnik, a a Unesco Budva, visit Kotor

I am also exploring what General Tour can do for us.

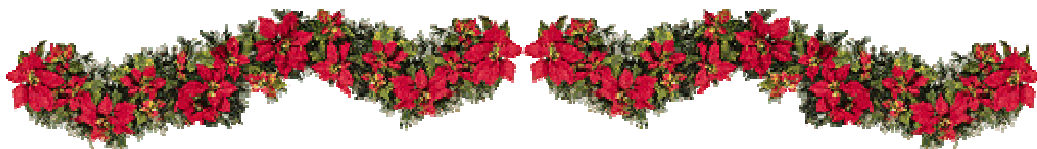
As soon as I have all the information especially also from Tirana Travel, I will call all on the list of interested parties and will schedule a meeting. I might even have some news by the time of our Christmas get-together.

Hope this information is somewhat helpful to all who are interested. To me, this is going to be a very nice exchange and excursion afterwards.

Please call me if this sounds good to you and you would like to participate in the exchange and extended trip.

Thank you.

Helga Ponischil



Celebrate the Holidays!

Where? Stoneybrook Country Club, 8801 Stoneybrook Blvd. Sarasota

When? Thursday, December 1st, 5:30pm cocktail hour, 6:30 dinner

What's the Menu? Stuffed Chicken breast or
Sautéed salmon with burre Blanc sauce
\$25 (\$33 non-members)

The price includes tax and tip and all dinners will come with salad,
Chef-selected sides, rolls, butter, coffee, tea, iced tea, and Chef's dessert.
There will be a full cash bar with appetizers.

What's Happening? A gift exchange continues this year!

If you wish to participate, bring 1 wrapped gift (\$10) per couple or single.
Of course, only people bringing a gift will participate.
and/or

You may choose to donate an unwrapped item for Resurrection House.
Preferably underwear, socks, towels – male or female.

Who? The grapevine is saying that Santa's jolly elf will definitely be there!

How Do I Sign Up? Simply fill out the reservation below with your check.



Happy Holidays to All!



Annual Holiday Party – December 1st 5:30pm cocktails/6:30pm dinner

Please indicate your choice of entree

Chicken \$25x _____ = \$ _____ Guest \$33x _____ = \$ _____

Salmon \$25x _____ = \$ _____ Guest \$33x _____ = \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Ph # _____

Please make check out to and mail to Wayne Peterson, 4427 Opal Ct. Sarasota 34233
The deadline for reserving is November 25. As always, your check is your reservation.

There will be a short meeting presided over by our outgoing Prez, Jack Vendeland, during
which we will vote on our new slate of officers for 2012